



October 25-26, 2018 -- The dark financial networks represented at the secretive Seychelles meeting

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[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

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Those who gathered at the January 11, 2017 pre-Trump inaugural meeting in Seychelles in the Indian Ocean represented some of the world's darkest financial networks, raising questions about the nature of foreign cash that flowed and continues to flow into the Trump campaign coffers. At least five of those known to have attended the conclave, believed to have been held at the Four Seasons Hotel on Mahé island, where the Seychelles capital of Victoria is located, represented massive cash sources for the Trump campaign. Their meeting in Seychelles, where that nation's foreign secretary said was perfect for maintaining secrecy, was, in part, to collect on the foreign debts accrued by Trump during the campaign.

United Arab Emirates Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ), a part-time resident of Seychelles -- where he maintains a massive palace -- brought to the meeting officials of Mubadala Investment Company, the UAE sovereign wealth fund that is chaired by the crown prince and headquartered in Abu Dhabi. Mubadala has assets totaling some \$370 billion. The firm's sister company, with which it has merged, is the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC), also controlled by the Abu Dhabi royal family.

Also attending the meeting was Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Mahfouz, the son of Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, the late founder of Saudi Arabia's first private bank, the National Commercial Bank. Khalid bin Mahfouz was a major investor in the failed Bank of Credit & Commerce International (BCCI), a cash-rich global piggy bank for the Central Intelligence Agency. Khalid bin Mahfouz, along with his friend, the Governor of Riyadh from 1963 to 2011, Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, now King Salman, were suspected by Western intelligence of being terrorism financiers. While in charge of Riyadh, Salman was accused of providing financial and logistics support to members of Al Qaeda, who transited Riyadh en route to Al Qaeda safe houses in Pakistan and, ultimately, Afghanistan. Abdulrahman bin Mahfouz served on the board of *Muwaffaq* ("blessed relief") Foundation, cited by the U.S. Treasury Department as an Al Qaeda front. In an interview with *Forbes*, Abdulrahman said that Muwaffaq was his father's idea.

Muwaffaq established itself as Muwaffaq Ltd. in the Isle of Man in 1991. In 1992, the Muwaffaq Foundation was established in the Isle of Jersey. A corporate office was also established in Delaware. It closed in 1995. The Muwaffaq Foundation also established branches in Islamabad, Pakistan; Khartoum, Sudan; Zagreb and Split, Croatia; Tirana, Albania; Konjic, Sarajevo, and Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Vienna, Austria; and Siegen, Germany.

In February 1996, the Paris-based newspaper, *Al-Watan al-Arabi*, published an interview with Osama bin Laden, who was living in Afghanistan. Bin Laden was quite open about how his Al Qaeda organization was being financed. The leader of Al Qaeda told the *Al Watan* journalist that he was financed by a global network of Islamic charities, such as Muwaffaq, and cited, by name, the Muwaffaq Foundation in Zagreb as part of the worldwide support structure. The name of the journalist to whom Bin Laden revealed the "goods" on Saudi support for Al Qaeda was Jamal Khashoggi, recently tortured and butchered inside the Saudi consulate-general in Istanbul.

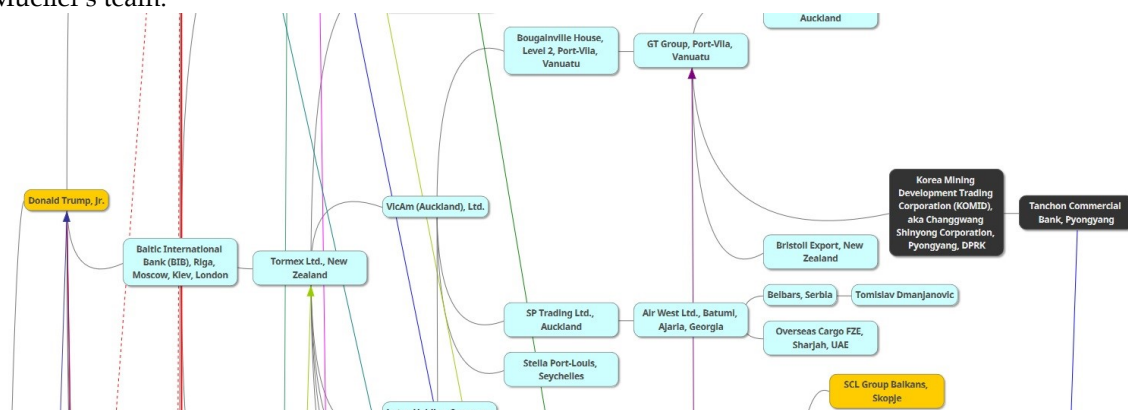
Khashoggi was very well aware of who and what were represented at the 1/11 meeting in Seychelles. And, it is perfectly understandable why Donald Trump breathed a sigh of relief at Khashoggi's murder. Khashoggi, the

nephew of the late international financier, Adnan Khashoggi, was in a position to know "who was who" in the Middle East and beyond and what role they played inside Trump's circle of friends and acquaintances. Not only did the current Saudi regime benefit from Jamal Khashoggi's death but so did Trump and senior officials of his campaign, including Blackwater founder Erik Prince, present at the Seychelles meeting, and Prince's sister, Betsy DeVos, the current Education Secretary.

Mahfouz was not the only Saudi who was represented at the Seychelles meeting. It is believed that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) had personal representatives at the meeting.

Kirill Dmitriev, the director of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RIDF), a Russia sovereign wealth fund, led a delegation of some 20 individuals to the Seychelles meeting. Dmitriev is a former Goldman Sachs banker. The RIDF continues to be a partner of Goldman Sachs, as well as BlackRock, Inc. of New York, which, with assets of \$5.1 trillion, is called the world's largest "shadow bank." The CEO of BlackRock, Laurence Fink, was a member of Trump's White House Policy and Strategy Council until he quit in August 2017, following Trump's failure to condemn a violent neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Another RIDF partner is Deutsche Bank, the largest creditor to the Trump Organization. During the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump owed more than \$360 million to the bank. The bank's suspicious transactions involving the 2016 campaign have been under the scrutiny of Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller's team.



Erik Prince may have been joined at the Seychelles meeting by investors in his Hong Kong-based Frontier Services Group, an energy resources company involved in mining and drilling operations in Africa, as well as counter-insurgency operations on the continent.

Israelis, some connected to Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner, were also believed to have attended the Seychelles meeting. These representatives, including those from Africa-Israel Investments Ltd., a real estate partner of Kushner Companies in New York in the old Times Square Building in Manhattan, are also involved with some of Prince's Africa operations.

Two banks, both under investigation by the Mueller team, also involve Seychelles. Baltic International Bank of Riga, Latvia and the Danske Bank branch in Tallinn, Estonia, have been linked to Trump construction projects in Moscow and Baku involving the "Eurasian Mafia." The Trump Tower in Baku involved Ivanka Trump. There are direct connections to Donald Trump, Jr. and the two banks in Latvia and Estonia. Both banks are connected to a network of offshore company operations based in New Zealand: SP Trading Ltd., VicAm, and Tormex, all three of which are under the umbrella of GT Group of Port-Vila, Vanuatu. These firms are also linked to a corporate entity in Seychelles called Stella Port-Louis. Such corporate contrivances use the strict corporate confidentiality laws in tax havens like Seychelles, Vanuatu, and the Isles of Man and Jersey to throw off dogged investigators on criminal trails, such as those on Mueller's team.

It is not known what Asian nations were represented at the 1/11 meeting, however, it is important to note that the Baltic International Bank, which is close to Donald Trump, Jr., [pictured right] is suspected of involvement in the smuggling of North Korean weapons in violation of U.S. and international law. GT Group, which had a



link to the Seychelles companies umbrella operation, was involved in the shipping of weapons for the Changgwang Shinyong Corporation of Pyongyang, North Korea. The company's correspondent bank is Tanchon Commercial Bank of Pyongyang. Tanchon came under investigation for financial links to Baltic International Bank. There was good reason for North Korea to have had proxies at the Seychelles meeting. Aside from the initial hyperbolic attacks between Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the two now consider themselves the best of friends.



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[Back to top](#)

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)